

## SHIP FIRES AND SUGAR THEFTS LAND 6 IN JAIL

Police Suspect Alleged Conspirators Worked With German Agents.

LOOT TOTALS \$75,000;  
MORE ARRESTS LIKELY

Police investigation of an alleged conspiracy to steal sugar from steamship cargoes bound for the Allies and to cover the thefts by mysterious fires on board the ships in port or at sea led yesterday to the arrest of six men, five of them officers of barges or lighters, and one a second hand furniture dealer. The police estimate roughly that since the war began \$75,000 worth of sugar has been stolen from lighters and barges loading British ships in this port, and one of their theories is that the alleged conspirators may have worked hand in hand with German agents. The action was the police coup early yesterday morning and the night before that as yet the connection between the alleged thefts and the mysterious fires is not definitely established. It is merely drawn as a logical inference. Furthermore, the belief that German agents may have been involved in the alleged thefts or the fires is based entirely on the fact that four of the men under arrest, charged with grand larceny, claim German parentage in this country or in Germany.

### Fire Bombs Found.

The arrests followed an investigation under Fifth Deputy Commissioner Guy E. Quinn and Fire Marshal Brophy of five fire bombs on six British steamships loaded with sugar for the Allies. Four lighters and one barge, which carried the sugar from the National Sugar Refining Company at Yonkers, had been loaded in Manhattan and Brooklyn piers. Four of the fires developed in New York harbor before the ships sailed, and in the cases of two more ships the bombs were discovered in their cargoes when they reached European ports. The men under arrest at Police Headquarters last night were:

Michael Matzel, 672 Forty-eighth street, Brooklyn, born in Germany; captain of the lighter S. P. S., owned by Shoups Bros., 130 Wall street. Charged with grand larceny.

Simmons Sijssen, 511 Sixth avenue, Brooklyn, born in the United States of German parentage; captain of the barge Dixie of the same concern. Charged with grand larceny.

John Peterson, 28 Buena Vista avenue, Yonkers, mate of the S. P. S. Charged with grand larceny.

Ferdinand Hahn, 357 Seventeenth street, Brooklyn, born in the United States of German parentage; captain of the lighter John F. Rymer. Charged with grand larceny.

Richard Milhofer, 6914 Fourteenth avenue, Brooklyn, born in East Prussia; captain of the lighter Trial. Charged with grand larceny.

Abraham Kohn, 430 Monroe street, a second hand furniture dealer, in whose place, according to the police, 141 bags of sugar were found. Charged with receiving stolen goods.

Others Questioned.

Jean Symms, 29, a Belgian who works as a weight checker on the French line pier at Thirty-fourth street and lives at 601 Tenth avenue, was detained at Police Headquarters for further investigation, but he was not charged against him. The police also questioned James F. Dillon, 36 Willow place, Brooklyn, a checker, and Gus Fisher, 10 Wall street, Brooklyn, captain of the lighter Dahlman, a German, but they were not detained.

According to information gathered by detectives who have worked on the alleged conspiracy since last April, when the first mysterious fire broke out in the sugar cargo on board the British steamship Devon City, at least a dozen other fires have occurred since then. The police believe that the sugar losses would never have been discovered if the attention of the police and fire departments had not been called to the mysterious fires in sugar vessels and lighters.

The Devon City's cargo caught fire April 22. One of the lighters which carried sugar to her berth was the Trial. On May 2 the British steamship Kirkswald sailed for Marseilles with a cargo of sugar, and when she was loaded at that port 120 bags of sugar were found in the cargo. The Trial was one of the lighters which had been loaded with sugar and also the Devon City. The Kirkswald, which caught fire at her pier at Thirty-first street, Brooklyn, on July 20. Meanwhile on May 8 the British steamship Banker sailed for Havre with a cargo in which a fire bomb was discovered when she reached Havre on May 21.

Agents of the Fabre Line investigated the fire bomb on the Kirkswald on the theory that they had been placed on board to blow up the ship. Capt. Tunney and Fire Marshal Brophy meanwhile had been investigating the Devon City fire and the fires on the Kirkswald and the British steamship Banker, which had a serious fire in one of her sugar holds on July 24. The detectives found that in both the latter cases the lighter S. P. S., Capt. Hahn, had loaded most of the sugar cargo.

It was noted as significant, according to the police, that when the S. P. S. was taken off the sugar lighterage service for a while there were no fires. Capt. Tunney also sent detectives to the sugar refinery and to act as helpers on the lighters bringing the bags of sugar down the river to the steamships. The first definite clue leading to yesterday's arrests followed the discovery of a fire Thursday night on the S. P. S. at the French line pier at West Forty-fourth street, where she lay with a large cargo of sugar aboard. A few hours later the large Dixie developed a fire in her sugar cargo at West Forty-eighth street.

Commissioner Scull immediately ordered a patrolman to watch the S. P. S. The arrest of Capt. Matzel and Mate Peterson followed soon afterward, and from information obtained from them, the police say, they were able to locate 141 bags of sugar in Katchelink's place, and the other arrests were made at intervals during Friday night and yesterday.

The men denied insistently that they knew anything about the fires. So wide spread is the alleged conspiracy, however, that last night officers of the men under arrest, according to the detectives, earned \$15 a week, but own a \$5,500 home in Brooklyn, an automobile, and is interested in eight other houses.

## LEADING WOMEN OF NATION ORGANIZE CAMPAIGN TO URGE INCREASED AMERICAN ARMY AND NAVY

Plan to Hold Conference on National Defence at Washington.

MANY JOIN IN MOVEMENT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—A great woman's national defence conference, the first of its kind ever held, is planned by the woman's section of the Navy League, to be held in Washington about November 15. The conference will probably be held in Memorial Continental Hall, the national headquarters of the D. A. R. Mrs. William Cummings Story, president-general of that organization, and many of her national organization are prominent in the woman's section of the Navy League.

The conference is planned to serve the double purpose of a meeting for the permanent organization of the woman's section of the Navy League and as a means of influencing Congress and the executive branch of the government in the need of the country for adequate defence. Members of the national and State committees and delegates from the local chapters in every State in the Union will be invited to attend. In the morning session reports from these committees and delegates will be taken up and the progress of the work in all sections of the country reported.

At the afternoon session prominent speakers, both men and women, will address the assemblage on subjects of national defence and the part women ought to take in obtaining it. Among those who will be asked to speak are Secretary of the Navy Daniels, Speaker Champ Clark, Representative A. P. Gardner of Massachusetts, George von L. Meyer, former Secretary of the Navy; the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, Mrs. William Cummings Story, president-general of the D. A. R., and other presidents of women's organizations who are serving on the national committee of the woman's section; Mrs. John A. Logan, widow of the civil war General; Miss Julia Marlowe, Genevieve Champ Clark, Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, chaplain-general of the D. A. R., and Mrs. Parks Fisher of Morgantown, W. Va., sister of the late Rear Admiral Schley.

### Naval Pictures to Be Shown.

The national committee and Washington members will give a reception in the evening at the New Willard to the visiting delegates. A feature of the conference will be an exhibition of naval photographs, moving pictures and appliances. It is expected that this exhibit will be sent from point to point after the conference to arouse enthusiasm for national defence. The woman's section passed the 1,500 mark in membership during the past week and hundreds of new members forward their pledges and letters every day. The officers of the woman's section are greatly pleased. A gratifying feature of the report is the progress the section is making at the summer social colonies. At Newport Mrs.

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O. H. P. Belmont and Mrs. Gibson Fahnestock have volunteered to take an active part in the work and secure signatures and membership pledges of prominent women spending the summer there.

Mrs. C. Vanderbilt Cross and others are performing the same patriotic duty at Bar Harbor and the work of canvassing the other social summer centres is being carried on by enthusiastic members.

Among others who have been appointed on the national committee are Mrs. G. C. Davison of New London, Conn.; Mrs. Leonard Thomas, Mrs. George D. Widener, Mrs. Pembroke Jones, Mrs. J. Stewart Barney, Mrs. William B. Caperton, Mrs. Reginald Rosdman, Mrs. Herbert Shipman, Mrs. Stuart Duncan, Mrs. Craig Biddle, Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting, Mrs. August Belmont, Mrs. Charles Warren Lippitt and Mrs. L. Livingston Beckman of Newport; Mrs. Vincent Astor, Mrs. Edward Beale McLean, Mrs. Peter Goulet Gerry, Mrs. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, Mrs. James Potter, Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mrs. Elbridge T. Gerry, Mrs. Richard L. Wilson, Mrs. Hunt Slater, Mrs. Morgan Belmont, Mrs. Henry C. Frick, Mrs. Hollis McKim of Baltimore, Mrs. John Hays Hammond; Mrs. Gardner Cassatt of Philadelphia; Mrs. John Van Hensseler Hoff of Washington; Mrs. Frederick Tyson of Baltimore, and Mrs. Moncure Robinson of Philadelphia.

During the week many enthusiastic letters of indorsement and support have been received from prominent women. Mrs. Sarah E. Fulton, Rochester, N. Y., president of the Women's Relief Corps, is one of the strongest and best known of the organizations.

"I know that if our entire membership of one hundred and seventy thousand patriotic American women were within the sound of my voice each one would sign the membership pledge," Mrs. Moncure Robinson of Philadelphia wrote.

"I do not need a new pledge, as I have been preaching against our foreign dependence for many years. I am glad that women are at least awake to its menace and hope they will now help to undo the great harm they have caused by their short sighted peace propaganda in the past."

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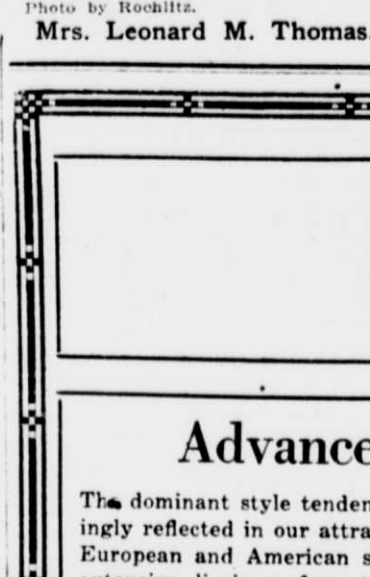
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## FRANK'S LYNCHING TOWN BARS SPIES

Strangers Are Being Expelled and the Police Force Is Increased.

A CORDON ON THE WATCH

MARIETTA, Ga., Aug. 28.—The citizens of this place have placed a ban on inquisitive strangers since the lynching of Leo M. Frank. Guards are on duty and close watch is kept on all newcomers. If the actions of persons arriving prove suspicious they are quietly informed of the hour when the next train leaves.

Eight men, whose conduct aroused suspicion and who did not give satisfactory explanations of their presence here, were rounded up late last night, placed in a box car of a freight train about to leave and sent away. No arrangements, as far as could be learned, had been made with the railroad to transport these persons out of town, but the car was guarded until the train left the town limits.

Since Frank was lynched here on August 17 several persons whose business in the town was not known have been invited to leave. Five men who had the appearance of laborers and said they were seeking employment here were ordered away yesterday. They could not be found to-day. In the opinion of the police they did not seem to make a serious attempt to get work.

The eight men sent away last night also appeared to be laborers. The continual receipt of letters threatening vengeance on Marietta because of the lynching of Frank has caused the city

authorities to add fifteen men to the police force.

Letters are being received from all parts of the country by the Cobb county officials and by persons who have given interviews on the Frank case to newspapers published outside the State.

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